

REMARKS

Throughout this amendment deletions are stricken through or double bracketed and added text is underlined.

By this amendment claims 1, 13, 15, and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-6 and 8-16 remain for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1, 13, 15, and 16 are the only independent claims remaining for consideration. This amendment does not introduce any new matter.

Claim 1 has been amended in the interest of greater clarity. Claim 1, as amended on January 26, 2004, is open to read on contact elements that may include contact areas in addition to the at least one contact area that is required to meet the requirement that $V \geq 25$, where $V = \frac{L^2}{F}$, L is the perimeter of the at least one contact area, and V is the size, i.e. surface area, of the at least one contact area. Accordingly, for reasons of internal logical consistency the claim has been clarified to allow for the fact that not all the current passing between the contact element and the conductive surface passes through the at least one contact area meeting the $V \geq 25$ requirement when the contact element includes contact areas in addition to the at least one contact area that meets the $V \geq 25$ requirement. Claim 1 has also been amended to reference the singular "boundary line" instead of the plural "boundary lines" to be grammatically consistent with the "at least one contact area" recited in the claim.

Claims 13 and 15 have also been amended to reference the singular "boundary line" instead of the plural "boundary lines" to be grammatically consistent with the "at least one contact area" recited in the claims.

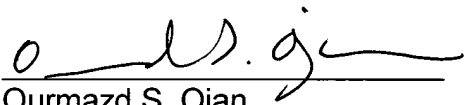
Claim 16 has been amended to use the proper claim format in accordance with U.S. patent practice.

For the reasons stated above and in our response of January 26, 2004, the applicant respectfully submits that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If in the Examiner's opinion that is not the case, the Applicant asks that the Examiner kindly contact the undersigned by telephone in an effort to resolve any outstanding issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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